

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 H-02 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07

IO-10 JUSE-00 NSAE-00 SNM-02 TRSE-00 USIA-06 NSC-05

OES-03 OMB-01 NEA-10 EUR-12 /074 W

----- 022824

R 221446Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY ASUNCION

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5368

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 ASUNCION 2878

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, PA

SUBJECT: SEMI-ANNUAL NARCOTICS REPORT FOR PARAGUAY --
CONGRESSIONAL PRESENTATION

REF: ASUNCION 435, JANUARY 31, 1975

1. SECTION A (JANUARY 1-JUNE 30, 1975)

A. ASSISTANCE. NO NEW ASSISTANCE AGREEMENTS WERE
SIGNED DURING THE PERIOD.

B. OBLIGATIONS AND EXPENDITURES. OTHER (SUPPORT COSTS)
DOLS 3,000.

C. EQUIPMENT. (1) AUDIO VISUAL, DOLS 768.00;
COMMUNICATIONS, DOLS 5,210.00; LABORATORY, DOLS 7,400;
(2) LABORATORY, DOLS 1,626.00. DELIVERY PENDING.

D. SUPPORT COSTS. DOLS 3,000.

E. TRAINING. TWO NNA AGENTS ATTENDED AND COMPLETED THE
DEA ADVANCED INTERNATIONAL DRUG ENFORCEMENT SCHOOL
NO. 9 IN WASHINGTON, D.C. AN IN-COUNTRY TRAINING
COURSE IN NARCOTICS IDENTIFICATION AND SEARCH
TECHNIQUES WAS CONDUCTED BY US CUSTOMS INSTRUCTORS APRIL
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7-18 FOR PARAGUAYAN NNA, CUSTOMS, AND IMMIGRATION

OFFICERS. THIRTY-THREE OFFICIALS ATTENDED THE COURSE AND RECEIVED DIPLOMAS.

F. PERSONNEL. THERE ARE THREE DEA AGENT POSITIONS (TWO UNFILLED AS OF JULY 1, 1975) AT POST AND ONE U.S. SECRETARY.

2. SECTION B (JANUARY 1, 1975-JUNE 30, 1975)

A. SUMMARY: INTELLIGENCE AVAILABLE TO THE MISSION SUGGESTS THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE AIR ROUTING OF COCAINE FROM BOLIVIA AND PARAGUAY TO THE US MAY BE SHIFTING FROM THE CUSTOMARY INTERMEDIATE POINTS IN CHILE, PERU, AND PANAMA TO ROUTES THROUGH BRAZIL AND THE CARIBBEAN. RELIABLE SOURCES INDICATE BOLIVIAN COCAINE PRODUCERS MAY INTEND TO MOVE SOME OF THEIR LABORATORIES INTO PARAGUAY. MOVEMENT OF PARAGUAYAN-GROWN MARIJUANA INTO BRAZIL IS INCREASING RAPIDLY. COMBINED NNA, AND PARAGUAYAN POLICE AND MILITARY OPERATIONS SOME INCLUDING DEA ASSISTANCE PRODUCED A NUMBER OF ARRESTS FOR ILLEGAL POSSESSION OR TRAFFICKING IN COCAINE, MARIJUANA, AND METHAMPHETAMINES.

B. ABUSE. NO NEW INFORMATION.

C. PRODUCTION AND PROCESSING. REPORTS FROM RELIABLE SOURCES INDICATE A CONTINUING RAPID INCREASE IN CANNABIS PRODUCTION IN PARAGUAY (SEE PARAGRAPH "D" BELOW).

D. TRAFFICKING TRENDS. UNCONFIRMED INTELLIGENCE REPORTS HAVE INDICATED THAT THERE MAY HAVE BEEN A SHIFT IN THE ROUTES NORMALLY USED BY PILOTS TO TRANSPORT COCAINE FROM BOLIVIA AND PARAGUAY TO PUERTO RICO AND THE SOUTHERN CONTINENTAL UNITED STATES. PILOTS ARE REPORTED TO BE SWITCHING FROM ANDEAN ROUTES THROUGH CHILE, PERU, AND PANAMA TO A CENTRAL ROUTE, TRAVELING NORTH TO CORUMBA AND MANAUS, BRAZIL, AND TO POINTS IN THE CARIBBEAN.

PRESUMABLY RELIABLE INTELLIGENCE AND ONE COCAINE SEIZURE INDICATE THAT COCAINE IS BEING SHIPPED FROM SANTA CRUZ, BOLIVIA, TO ASUNCION, PARAGUAY ON LINEAS AEREAS PARAGUAYAS
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FLIGHTS. THERE ARE INDICATIONS OF ADDITIONAL SHIPMENTS OF COCAINE BY PRIVATE AIRCRAFT FROM BOLIVIA TO THE PARAGUAYAN CHACO.

ACCORDING TO RELIABLE SOURCES, COCAINE PRODUCERS NOW LOCATED IN BOLIVIA AT SANTA CRUZ AND COCHABAMBA ARE CONSIDERING MOVING SOME OF THEIR LABORATORIES INTO THE CHACO AREA OF PARAGUAY BECAUSE OF PRESSURE FROM BOLIVIAN

AUTHORITIES. THIS HAS BEEN CONFIRMED BY VISUAL SIGHTINGS
OF TRUCKLOADS OF COMPRESSED COCA LEAVES COMING INTO PARAGUAY.

INTELLIGENCE ALSO INDICATES THAT, WITH THE RECENT UPSURGE
OF MARIJUANA CULTIVATION IN PARAGUAY, UP TO 60,000 KILOGRAMS
OF MARIJUANA PER MONTH ARE BEING SHIPPED BY AIR AND LAND
FROM PARAGUAY INTO BRAZIL.

UNCONFIRMED REPORTS SUGGEST THAT THE TRADITIONAL
HEROIN TRAFFICKERS (E.G. CORSICANS) MAY BE CONSIDERING
RESUMPTION OF THE PARAUAYAN CONNECTION WHICH WAS
BROKEN WITH THE RICORD CASE THREE YEARS AGO.

E. REGIONAL AND MULTINATIONAL COOPERATION. FOUR
DELEGATES FROM PARAGUAY, INCLUDING UNDER SECRETARY OF
INTERIOR MIGUEL ANGEL BESTARD AND NNA DIRECTOR
ANTONIO CAMPOS ALUM, WERE DESIGNATED TO ATTEND THE
SOUTHERN CONE REGIONAL NARCOTICS CONFERENCE, TO BE HELD
IN BOLIVIA IN EARLY JULY.

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R 221446Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY ASUNCION

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5369

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 ASUNCION 2878

F. EMBASSY AND HOST GOVERNMENT ACTIVITIES. THE MISSION
NARCOTICS COORDINATING COMMITTEE APPROVED AND FORWARDED
TO THE DEPARTMENT A REQUEST FOR THE APPROPRIATION OF DOLS
12,000 IN CCINC FUNDS FOR FY 76, AN INCREASE OF DOLS
6,000 OVER FY 75. THE FUNDS ARE TO PROVIDE LOGISTICAL
SUPPORT FOR INVESTIGATIONS BY THE NNA AND PARAGUAYAN POLICE.

THREE MOBILE RADIOS PURCHASED UNDER AN AID PROAG
ARRIVED AND ARE BEING READIED FOR THE NNA.

THE EMBASSY NARCOTICS COORDINATOR, THE SAIC, AND OTHER
MISSION OFFICERS MET WITH PUBLIC HEALTH AND INTERIOR
MINISTRY OFFICIALS FOR A PERIODIC EXCHANGE OF VIEWS
REGARDING EXISTING AND ANTICIPATED DRUG PROBLEMS IN
PARAGUAY.

G. ENFORCEMENT. FROM JANUARY THROUGH APRIL, NNA AGENTS,
SOMETIMES ASSISTED BY PARAGUAYAN POLICE AND MILITARY, RAIDED
NINE MARIJUANA PLANTATIONS, DESTROYED 9,565 PLANTS, AND
ARRESTED 11 PERSONS. RAIDS IN PUERTO PRESIDENTE STROESSNER
RESULTED IN THE SEIZURE OF 923 DOSAGE UNITS OF
METHAMPHETAMINES ("PERVITIN") AND EIGHT ARRESTS. DEA ASSISTED.
ABOUT FIVE KILOGRAMS OF COCAINE WERE SEIZED AND FOUR
ARRESTS MADE BY BRAZILIAN AUTHORITIES IN FOZ DO IGUAU
AS A RESULT OF AN INVESTIGATION INITIATED IN PARAGUAY
BY THE ASUNCION DISTRICT OFFICE. LATER, THREE SEPARATE
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NNA AND LOCAL POLICE OPERATIONS IN THE PEDRO JUAN
CABALLERO AREA RESULTED IN FIFTEEN MORE ARRESTS, THE
DESTRUCTION OF FIVE HECTARES OF MARIJUANA PLANTATIONS AND
THE SEIZURE OF ABOUT 350 KILOS OF MARIJUANA AND MORE
THAN 30,000 DOSAGE UNITS OF PERVITIN. SEVENTY-
FIVE MATURE MARIJUANA PLANS WERE SEIZED AND DESTROYED
IN ANOTHER NNA OPERATION NEAR CAAGUAZU. MOST OF THESE
OPERATIONS WERE FINANCED BY CCINC FUNDS.

H. INCOME SUBSTITUTION. NO APPLICABLE.

I. TREATMENT/REHABILITATION/EDUCATION. THE SAIC
ASSISTED THE NNA IN PREPARING MATERIALS FOR TWO NARCOTICS
PRESENTATIONS AT THE NATIONAL WAR COLLEGE AND A LOCAL
UNIVERSITY AND FOR USE BY SCHOOLS AND CIVIC GROUPS. A
16MM PROJECTOR PURCHASED UNDER AN AID PROAG ARRIVED AND IS
BEING MADE AVAILABLE TO THE NNA FOR SHOWING SUITABLE
SPANISH LANGUAGE FILMS.
BRIGGS

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